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VIRGINIA TURF TESTS KEYED TO SPORTS TURF

The Virginia Extension Service has replanted an athletic field demonstration area in Annandale, VA, to update results it obtained from a 1979 test of different turfgrass types. In 1979, the tests indicated a weakness in zoysiagrass, bermudagrass and tall fescue to withstand athletic field traffic and Virginia winters.

Dr. Jack Hall from Virginia Tech and Dr. Jack Murray from the USDA Research Station decided to use Wakefield Park in Annandale again to discover gains made in fine-bladed tall fescues and seeded zoysiagrass. The area was replanted last year and will be shown during a demonstration June 18.

Preliminary results indicate the seeded zoysia plots did not perform as hoped with only 18 percent ground cover after two months. The fine-bladed tall fescues achieved 90 percent coverage in three months compared to 70 percent coverage for K-31 tall fescue. New perennial ryegrasses also achieved 90 percent cover. Sprigged Vamont bermudagrass had complete coverage but previous tests showed poor winter hardiness.

Hall believes these types of local demonstration tests under actual use conditions will provide the best information for sports turf managers.

TURGEON APPOINTED HEAD OF AGRONOMY AT PENN STATE

Author, businessman and turf research specialist Dr. Al Turgeon has assumed the position as head of the agronomy department at Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. Turgeon succeeds Dr. James Starling who was appointed associate dean of administrative affairs for the University's College of Agriculture in 1985.

Turgeon has vast experience in both the business and technical sides of the turf industry. Most recently, he was vice president of support services for Tru-Green Corp., East Lansing, MI, the second largest lawn care company in the country. Since 1983, when he joined Tru-Green, the company's sales doubled from roughly \$20 million to \$40 million.

Prior to joining Tru-Green, Turgeon was professor and director of research for the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Dallas, TX, where he managed the unit's research program in an administrative capacity.

He started his research career as a student at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, and Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI. He continued his research as associate professor of turfgrass science at the University of Illinois.